

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 /083 W

----- 007318

R 051030Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6473

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0472

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, BC, CH

SUBJECT: PRC EMBASSY IN GABORONE

REFERENCE: (A) GABORONE 446; (B) GABORONE 371

1. SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CHARLES TIBONE, HAS INFORMED THE DCM THAT APPROXIMATELY 14 PRC DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS WILL ARRIVE IN GABORONE ABOUT APRIL 14 TO OPEN A DIPLOMATIC MISSION. TIBONE SAID HE HAS SEEN THE LIST OF NAMES, WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTIONS. THE GROUP WILL BE LEAD BY A FIRST SECRETARY, CHARGE. AN INTERESTING CLUE WHICH THE LIST OFFERS IS THAT A NUMBER OF THE PERSONNEL ARE VERY YOUNG (IN THEIR EARLY 20'S). TIBONE OPINED THAT THE LIST THEREFORE PROBABLY INCLUDES SOME COOKS, CHAUFFERS, ETC.

2. TIBONE NOTED THAT THE CHINESE HAD GIVEN THE BOTSWANA GOVERN-
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MENT NO OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS ITS VIEWS REGARDING THE COMPOSITION

OF THE EMBASSY STAFF. TIBONE'S SUSPICIONS THAT HOUSEHOLD AND OTHER SUPPORT STAFF WILL BE WITH THE GROUP CAUSES HIM PROBLEMS BECAUSE THE GOB WOULD PREFER THAT SUCH FUNCTIONS BE PERFORMED BY BATSWANA. TIBONEACKNOWLEDGED THAT PROVIDING THEIR OWN SERVANT STAFF WAS COMMON PRACTICE FOR COMMUNIST BUT HE SAID GOB, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS ALREADY INFORMED THE SOVIETS OF THE BOTSWANA DESIRE THAT SUCH FUNCTIONS BE PERFORMED BY LOCAL HIRE.

3. TIBONE ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE KNOWS OF NO CURRENT PLAN OR SPECIFIC DATE FOR THE OPENING OF A SOVIET EMBASSY IN GABORONE. HE SAID THAT THE REFERENCE IN THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO THE AGREEMENT THAT THE SOVIETS MAY ESTABLISH AN EMBASSY IN GABORONE WAS INTENDED TO BALANCEOFF THE FACT THAT THE CHINESE ARE COMING. ACCORDING TO TIBONE THERE HAS BEEN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE FOR SOME TIME THAT THE SOVIETS COULD OPEN AN EMBASSY BUT THE GOB HAD RESISTED PREVIOUS SOVIET EFFORTS TO DO SO. NOW THE GOB WOULD ACCEPT SUCH A SOVIET REQUEST, BUT ONE HAS NOT YET BEEN FORTHCOMING.
BOLEN

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